

Remarks

Claims 1-8 were pending in this application prior to amendment herein, with claims 1-8 being rejected. Claims 2 and 6 have been canceled, and claims 1, 4, 5, and 8 have been amended. Claims 1, 3-5, 7, and 8 are therefore currently pending in the present application.

The limitations of claims 2 and 6 have been included in claim 1, and claims 2 and 6 have been canceled in view of this. Claims 4, 5, and 8 have been further amended in order to clarify these claims. No new matter has been added to this application by the foregoing amendments, with support being found in the specification, claims and figures as filed.

In view of the foregoing, the Applicant respectfully requests entry of this Amendment and consideration of the present application as amended herein.

Rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b)

Claims 1-8 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 4,445,735 to Bonnefoy. The electrical connecting apparatus of the present invention differs from the connection device of Bonnefoy in that it includes a cover having first and fifth recesses which communicate with an elastic falling-off preventing member in a state of close fit, the fifth recess being located longitudinally of a second recess and communicating with an end portion of the falling-off preventing member. When a falling-off preventing member made of an elastic material is placed in a state of close fit with the first and fifth recesses, it is elastically deformed by the recesses and prevents the probes of the presently claimed apparatus from falling off of the cover (as disclosed in the specification on p. 3, lines 14-17 and on page 4, lines 4-9). The Bonnefoy patent neither discloses nor suggests this feature of the present invention.

In view of the foregoing, the Applicant respectfully submits that claim 1 is patentable over the Bonnefoy patent. Claims 3-5, 7, and 8 depend directly or indirectly from claim 1, and are therefore also patentable for the foregoing reason. In addition, claims 2 and 6 have been canceled, making the rejection of these claims moot. The

Applicant therefore respectfully requests that the rejections of claims 1-8 under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 4,445,735 to Bonnefoy be withdrawn.

Conclusion

The Applicant believes that all pending claims, claims 1, 3-5, 7, and 8, are in condition for allowance, and a Notice of Allowance is respectfully requested. If, however, there remain any issues which can be addressed by telephone, the Examiner is encouraged to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

Please charge any fees due in connection with this Amendment or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 19-2090.

Respectfully submitted,

SHELDON & MAK PC

Date: August 14, 2006

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